

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 OTTAWA 03196 241210Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 L-03 NSC-05
PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AGRE-00
MCT-01 /092 W

-----038890 241846Z /43

R 241202Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7861
INFO AMCONSUL CALGARY
AMCONSUL HALIFAX
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
AMCONSUL QUEBEC
AMCONSUL TORONTO
AMCONSUL VANCOUVER
AMCONSUL WINNIPEG

UNCLAS OTTAWA 03196

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, CA
SUBJECT: SWIFT MEAT PACKERS' STRIKE

REF: OTTAWA 3042

1. THE 50,000-MEMBER CANADIAN FOOD AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION CALLED OUT ITS 2,000 MEMBERS AT SWIFT CANADIAN CO.'S PLANTS IN TORONTO, WINNIPEG, EDMONTON, LETHBRIDGE (ALBERTA), AND RICHMOND (B.C.) ON JUNE 19, AFTER A BREAKDOWN IN COLLECTIVE BARGAINING NEGOTIATIONS FOR A NEW CONTRACT. THE UNION HAS ASKED FOR A TWO-YEAR CONTRACT WITH AN 8 PERCENT INCREASE IN THE FIRST YEAR AND 7 PERCENT IN THE SECOND YEAR, PLUS IMPROVED FRINGE BENEFITS. SWIFT HAS OFFERED 6 AND ONE-HALF PERCENT AND 6 PERCENT. MEANWHILE, CANADA PACKERS LTD. HAS THREATENED TO LOCK OUT ITS 4,000 WORKERS IN TORONTO, WINNIPEG, EDMONTON AND LETHBRIDGE, CLAIMING

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 OTTAWA 03196 241210Z

THAT THEIR NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SAME UNION HAVE BROKEN DOWN AND THAT THEY SHOULD BE PART OF THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING PROCESS ALONG WITH SWIFT, RATHER THAN ALLOW THE UNION TO USE SWIFT NEGOTIATIONS AS A PATTERN-SETTER. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THE UNION IS RELUCTANT TO ACCEPT SWIFT'S OFFER AS IT WOULD PLACE THEM ON A LOWER WAGE SCALE THAN SWIFT WORKERS IN THE UNITED STATES.

2. COMMENT: THE SWIFT STRIKE HAS ALL THE EARMARKS OF A
CONFLICT THAT WILL GET WORSE BEFORE IT GETS BETTER.
SELDOM HAVE CANADIAN COMPANIES RESORTED TO THE USE OF A
LOCKOUT, WHICH ONLY REINFORCES REFTEL ANALYSIS THAT
COLLECTIVE BARGAINING OUTSIDE ANTI-INFLATION BOARD CONTROLS
MAY BECOME INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT. ENDERS

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WAGES, COLLECTIVE BARGAINING, MEATS, CONTRACTS, LABOR STRIKES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978OTTAWA03196
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780263-1205
Format: TEL
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780623/aaaaatww.tel
Line Count: 69
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e8391782-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 OTTAWA 3042
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2219284
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SWIFT MEAT PACKERS' STRIKE
TAGS: ELAB, CA, SWIFT
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e8391782-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014